REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed August 10, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully considered. Claims 14-21, 24 and 25 are currently pending. The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claim 18 is allowed. Claim 14 has been amend to recite in part that that the corrugating step is further defined as etching the corrugation on the jacket. The feature is similar to that recited in claim 18 which was indicated allowed by the Examine. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 14, and any claim depending directly or indirectly therefrom, is now in condition for allowance. New claims 26-29 have been submitted for consideration. Support for these claims can be found in the application as originally file. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 14-16, 19-21 and 24 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Mitchell et al., in view of Hegler. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, independent claim 14 has been amended to recite that the corrugating step is further defined as etching the corrugation on the jacket. This step is similar to that recited in claim 18, which was indicated allowable by the Examiner. Claim 14 is believed to be allowable for at least this reason as the references fail to disclose a corrugating step which is further defined as etching the corrugation on the jacket.

Moreover, according to some preferred embodiments as recited in claim 14, a tubular component is provided that can have an appropriate jacket material surrounding it. During the forming step, both the inside and outside diameters of the tube are smooth. Then, undulations can be formed into the outer jacket material via etching the corrugation on the jacket, leaving the inner diameter generally smooth but the outer diameter having undulations. The resulting tubular

component then has a generally smooth inner diameter with an irregular jacket material outer surface. Such a resulting product can have superior kink resistance and routability compared to a tubular component with a constant outer surface. In addition, keeping the inner diameter substantially smooth aids in fluid flow without introducing turbulence into the fluid flowing through the tubes.

It is respectfully submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest the features recited in claim 14. For example, Mitchell discloses extruding individual layers, and while the material is still in a melt condition forming corrugations into the tube. This process is similar to a continuous flow molding operation where the molds that form the corrugations also cool or solidify the material before the tube exits the machine. A disadvantage of the system disclosed in Mitchell is that a smooth inner surface is not provided, and hence fluid turbulence will occur inside the finished tube during use. Moreover, Mitchell fails to the disclose that the corrugating step is further defined as etching the corrugation on the jacket. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Mitchell does not teach or suggest extruding a tube having a substantially smooth inner surface, forming a jacket over the inner layer substantially smooth outer surface, and then subsequently corrugating the jacket so that it has undulations wherein the corrugating step is further defined as etching the corrugation on the jacket..

Turning next to Hegler, the Office Action recognizes that Mitchell fails to disclose the step of forming a smooth inner layer and corrugating the jacket. Hegler is cited in the Office Action as allegedly disclosing forming a smooth inner layer and corrugating a jacket in a tube. However, it is respectfully submitted that any proposed combination of the teachings of Mitchell with Hegler would not be appropriate since, when the references themselves are looked at, such a combination would not work. It is noted that at the exit of the extrusion process in Mitchell, the materials are in a molten state. Thus, if Hegler's system were applied in combination with Mitchell, the material would stick and build up on the apparatus, and the tubular component would not be able to proceed through

Hegler's convoluting process. Furthermore, it is noted that Hegler fails to disclose a corrugating step is further defined as etching the corrugation on the jacket as recited in claim 14. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Hegler does not teach or suggest at least this aspect of claim 14 and withdrawal of this reject is respectfully requested.

Turning to the dependent claims, it is noted that some of the dependent claims were rejected as being unpatentable over Mitchell in view of Hegler. Claim 25 was rejected over Mitchell in view of Hegler and in view of de Rocheprise, and claim 17 was rejected based on Mitchell and Hegler in view of Egres. Applicant respectfully submits that the dependent claims are believed allowable for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 14. In addition, it is noted that de Rocheprise relates to changing the orientation of PTFE extrusion. This technology is related to the past extrusion dye which is used to form the final product shape. After this operation, the tube must first be dried to remove the lubrication required to extrude PTFE and then sintered to bond the PTFE powder together. Thus, the process taught in de Rocheprise could not be combined with Mitchell's process since the PTFE must be sintered in the gel state while Mitchell's system requires molten material. In addition, Egres relates to wrapping a film around a mandrel and then sintering the material to form a tube. Egres does not relate to a system that would provide a generally smooth inner surface and an undulated outer surface as recited in claim 14.

CONCLUSION

This Amendment merely requires only a cursory review by the Examiner and does not necessitate a new search, raise the issue of new matter, present additional claims or otherwise introduce new issues. Moreover, it is believed that this Amendment expedites the resolution of the of the above-identified matter. Further, it is noted that an Appeal Brief has not been filed and this Amendment is being filed within the time period for filing the brief and is believed to place the claims in patentable condition.

According, in light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment be entered and the claims indicated allowable. No extension-of-time fee is believed due. However, any extension of time necessary to prevent abandonment is hereby requested, and any fee necessary for consideration of this response is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2036.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the application are believed in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite issuance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (202) 861-1714.

Respectfully submitted,

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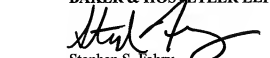

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